

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Flemington Man Sentenced to 51 Months
for Robbery of Yardville National Bank branch

(More)

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TRENTON – A Flemington man who pleaded guilty to robbing the Yardville National Bank in Ringoes last July was sentenced today to 51 months in federal prison, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

In addition to imposing the term of incarceration, U.S. District Judge Joel A. Pisano ordered Sean Desa, 22, to pay restitution in the amount of \$7,160 to Yardville National Bank, and further ordered that Desa serve three years of supervised release upon completion of his custodial sentence. Desa has been in federal custody since his arrest in July 2007.

On April 15, 2008, Desa pleaded guilty to a one-count Information, charging him with robbing the Yardville National Bank in Ringoes on July 5, 2007. At that plea hearing, Desa admitted possessing a BB gun when he approached the teller at the Yardville National Bank. Desa's co-conspirator in the Yardville National Bank robbery, Jay Fleshman, pleaded guilty before Judge Pisano on March 4. Fleshman is scheduled to be sentenced on Sept. 4.

In determining the sentence, Judge Pisano consulted the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges that take into account the severity and characteristics of the offense, the defendant's criminal history, if any, and other factors. The judge, however, was not bound by those guidelines in determining the sentence.

Parole has been abolished in the federal system. Defendants who are given custodial terms must serve nearly all of that time.

Christie credited the work of Special Agents of the FBI, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Weysan Dun, as well as members of the New Jersey State Police, under the direction of Superintendent Col. Rick Fuentes, and the Hunterdon County Prosecutor's Office, under the direction of Hunterdon County Prosecutor J. Patrick Barnes, for their assistance in the investigation.

Desa was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Joseph Mack.

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Defense Attorney: Ruth Liebesman, Esq., Woodridge, NJ (for Desa)